



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Transportation

Scott Kubly, Director

Director's Report for Transportation Committee

September 23, 2014

CURRENT ISSUES

- **WMBE Update:**

- SDOT is excited to announce Edson Zavala as our newest WMBE/HUB Program Advisor. Edson comes to us from San Antonio, Texas where he has served as the Economic Development Specialist for the past two years for the City of San Antonio. In that role, he was responsible for the Small Business Development Advocacy Program, identifying and recommending goals to promote small, minority and women-owned business participation, reviewing solicitation processes, conducting market availability analysis, administering a program aimed at developing the capacity of area businesses and entrepreneurs through educational courses and paired mentorships, among many other things. Prior to his work in San Antonio, he was a Business Development Assistant for the Small Business Development Center in Edinburg, Texas. Edson is multi-lingual (English, Spanish and Japanese) and has a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Texas-Pan American. Edson's talents and expertise will be a great addition to SDOT's team and help us continue to develop and grow as a City department in the realm of the WMBE Program and small business development. Edson's first day at SDOT will be September 24th.
- The SDOT WMBE program recently launched a new webpage that includes new resources for women- and minority-owned businesses. Resources include a guide to bidding and winning work with SDOT, a list of upcoming SDOT projects so WMBE can have ample time to prepare proposals, and a list of contacts at firms that have held prime contracts in the past so WMBE can connect for networking and teaming. Please visit our new website here: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/wmbe.htm>
- The WMBE team has also launched a training series for our project managers and leadership focused on the importance of the WMBE program, while highlighting tools and resources available to staff. We have worked closely with the Office for Civil Rights to create a training that focusses on practices of institutional and structural racism in the transportation field to demonstrate the value of the WMBE program. Our first training was on September 16 and the second training will take place on September 23.

- **Opening the Second Avenue Protected Bike Lane**

We had a wonderful opening of the Second Avenue Protected Bike Lane. While there have been some adjustments needed, the ridership is higher than anticipated and the facility has been welcomed by bicyclists.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Major Projects

- **Mercer West**

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) held a four day scheduled closure (completed August 27). During the closure, the Broad ST bridge was demolished and replaced with a section of roadway that will be compatible with the future SR 99 tunnel. Also during the closure, City utilities were relocated in preparation for the tunnel, the Seneca ST expansion joint on SR 99 was replaced and 81 concrete panels were replaced south of downtown. SDOT staff supported WSDOT with the closure.

- **Mercer West/Dexter Avenue**

SDOT is working closely with WSDOT and its contractors to manage construction at the north end of the SR 99 tunnel, in the vicinity of Dexter AVE, Mercer, and Harrison. Considerable utility work, combined with private development, has created challenging travel conditions, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists. Staff is fielding calls from the public and ensuring that WSDOT improves conditions and expedites work .

Traffic Management

- **Bike Share Safety Education**

The Seattle Police Department Traffic Division has agreed to work with SDOT and Seattle King County Public Health on a safety education for the launch of bike share. SPD will issue warnings and informational handouts about sidewalk riding and helmet use during the first few months of Pronto operations. The education effort will begin again in the spring of 2015. SDOT, SPD, and Public Health will also coordinate on safety messaging on our websites and social media platforms throughout October.

- **Freight Master Plan**

Staff participated in a ride-along with Warren Aakervik, the chair of the Seattle Freight Advisory Board, on August 29. Warren drove a 53' truck around the city to help staff understand the chokepoints, geometric constraints and modal conflicts that freight experiences. The issues identified in the ride will be incorporated into the stakeholder interview summary and the existing conditions report of the Freight Master Plan.

- **Street Scrabble tournament comes to Seattle**

Eight teams made up of two people competed in a Street Scrabble tournament at the intersection of University ST, East Union ST, and Boylston AVE. The tournament was used to highlight the lack of open space in the First Hill neighborhood and opportunities to use the right-of-way to create temporary open space.



Policy and Planning

- **Transportation Networking Company (TNC) Licensing/Permitting Events**

Staff continues to work with FAS on the implementation of Seattle's new TNC legislation. City, County, and TNC staff are coordinating to hold a series of licensing/permitting events for TNC drivers in the next few months.

- **Parking Presentation at Greenlake Chamber of Commerce**

Staff will present parking data and answer questions at the Green Lake Chamber of Commerce on September 22, 2014. Topics will include the extension of paid parking hours until 8 PM that is happening this week and next, as well as new parking data collected in Green Lake last spring during our annual Paid Parking Study.

- **Seattle Design Festival**

Policy and Planning staff participated in the Seattle Design Festival. The theme of this year's festival was Design in Motion, so there were a number of sessions with a transportation or mobility theme. The SDOT presentation focused on the City's Complete Streets policy and designing safe streets for all users.

- **Madison Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Definition Study**

The Madison Corridor BRT Project Definition Study will be hosting the first project open house on Tuesday, September 30, 5-7 PM, at the Silver Cloud Inn on Madison and Broadway. The purpose of the event is to introduce the Study to the community; seek input on a draft statement of the project purpose, need, and goals; share and get feedback on the review of existing conditions; and get early input on interests, opportunities, design ideas, and any other thoughts community members would like to share about the potential for bus rapid transit in the Madison corridor. The event will include stations on different topics, large format roll-plot maps for discussing design ideas and specific locations in the community, and a short presentation beginning at 5:30 PM.

- **Grants**

Staff is recommending that SDOT apply for Regional Mobility grants from WSDOT for the Rainier Beach Transit Center and the Broadway Streetcar Extension. In addition, Councilmember O'Brien has requested that the Mayor's Office and Council support an application being submitted by King County for funding for a Regional Transit Oriented Development Fund, which was recommended through the PSRC's Growing Transit Communities project. Council Central staff is working with King County and PSRC staff on the application.

Capital Projects and Roadway Structures

- **Design Week Third Avenue Art Installation**

The Third Avenue Transit Corridor Program and Public Space Management Program collaborated to temporarily install two art pieces on Third Avenue as part of the 2014 Seattle Design Festival. After being displayed in Occidental Park the weekend of September 6-7, the pieces were installed on Monday, September 8 and remained through the end of the Design Festival on September 19.

- **NW 95th St between 24th Ave NW and 25th Ave NW Stairway Rehabilitation Project**

This stairway is currently closed to the public. Stairway rehabilitation is about 80% completed, targeted reopen date is September 19, 2014.

- **Spokane Street Viaduct Concrete Deck Repair**

Surface deck crack sealing was completed on August 26, 2014. The remaining repairs are tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2014. This project is approximately 90% complete. The target completion date has moved from late August 2014 to mid-September 2014.

- **Knickerbocker Pedestrian Bridge Installation**

The Knickerbocker Bridge is a new pedestrian bridge being built by in-house crews. Installation was completed in four days and opened before the start of school, September 3. This bridge is a major pedestrian route to Sacagawea Elementary School. The new bridge was needed as a result of SPU widening the underlying creek bed from 10 feet to 70 feet. The bridge is made of composite material that has no paint or treated wood to contaminate the creek.



- **West Duwamish Trail project**

Active construction continues on this project which will extend the existing trail through South Park's industrial area, facilitating future connection to the Green River Trail. In an effort to keep the community up to date on the changing environment of construction, the construction communication officer hosted a booth at the 9th Annual Duwamish River Festival on Saturday, August 23 from 12-4 PM at the Duwamish Waterway Park.

Street Use and Urban Forestry

- **Access Seattle Leads Effort to Provide Parking Mitigation in the West Seattle Junction:**

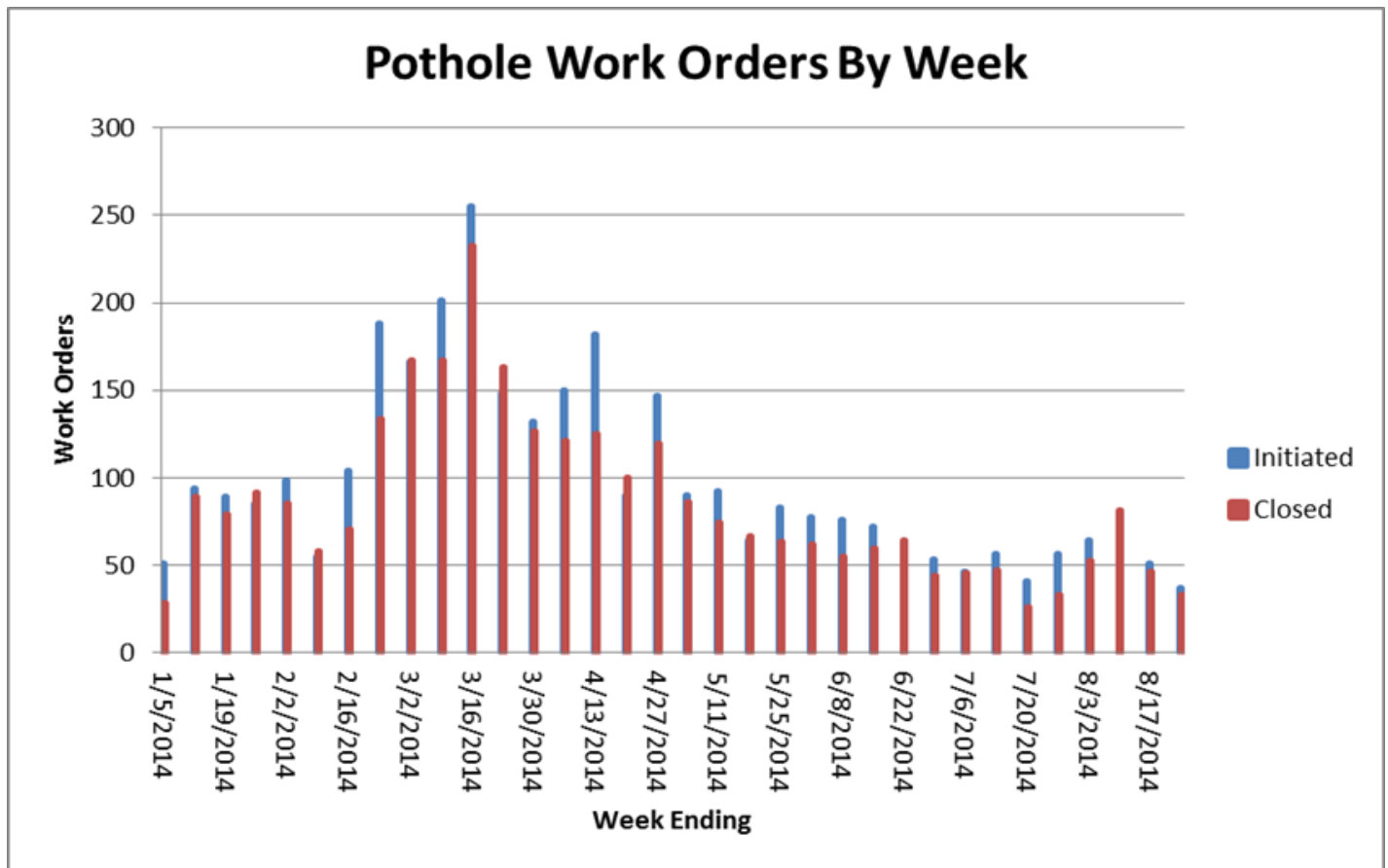
Access Seattle has led an effort to mitigate parking losses in the West Seattle Junction due to construction projects. Two construction companies have agreed to help fund a free parking program intended to aid their business neighbors. Customers of participating businesses will be able to park free of charge, for up to three hours, in Jefferson Square's underground parking garage.



- Newsstand Website Update**

SDOT entered into a contract with Sound Publishing to develop and maintain a website (seattlenewsstands.org) in order for the public to post newsstand-related maintenance issues. The purpose of the website is for newsstand owners to pro-actively manage relocation requests and resolve complaints in a timely manner. The newsstands will have decals affixed with the newsstand owner contact info and the new website address. The website will also serve as a tool for developers and City project managers to post notice of upcoming construction projects and request temporary newsstand relocations. All notices and complaints will route directly to the responsible publisher or distributor for them to address. SDOT will be able to track issues and provide enforcement as needed. Sound Publishing should have a website mock-up to review in September at the next newsstand stakeholders' meeting. The website should go live in early fall 2014.

Street Maintenance



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **North Beacon Safety Connections Drop-In Session**

SDOT is moving forward with construction of the 2014 Pedestrian Projects south package, including the North Beacon Safety Connections Project. The work includes new sidewalk segments and an uphill bicycle lane on Beacon AVE S, more than 10 new and upgraded curb ramps, curb bulbs and rechannelization near Beacon AVE S and 14th AVE S. SDOT has been working closely with the North Beacon Hill community throughout this project, seeking feedback and sharing progress. On Tuesday, September 9, we hosted a community drop-in session at the Beacon Hill Library from 6-7 PM. This final drop-in session gave the community an opportunity to learn more about the project's final design and get details on construction impacts and schedule. Construction for this project is anticipated to being as early as October and will continue into next year, wrapping up in early spring 2015.

- **47th Ave SW & SW Admiral Way Signal**

SDOT is in the final stages of design on the project to improve the three-way intersection of 47th Avenue SW, SW Admiral Way and SW Waite ST for people walking, biking and driving. SDOT will install a new signal, add new left turn only pockets in both the east and westbound directions of SW Admiral Way, add four new additional crosswalks and upgrade curb ramps to comply with ADA standards. On Tuesday, September 9, SDOT presented the final design to the Admiral Neighborhood Association.